



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor
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Week of July 18, 2021



Public Worship WILL be held at 10:30 am Sunday morning.
If you are not quite ready to join us for public worship, we invite you to follow along with this printed service.

Community Prayer

Dear God, good shepherd to each of us, we are so grateful to be part of your flock. We know that you include us, not because we are perfect, but because we are your creations, and we are good. What a reassurance to know that you seek after us even when we stray from your path. What a blessing to know you will always find us and carry us back home. If only we could be this way to each other. If only we could seek out those who are separated from your love, and gently guide them back to you, our faithful foundation. Lord, let us be instruments of your Spirit, seeking out the lost and lonely and showing them the love that you model for us in your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Check out our weekly video at www.fcclincoln.org, First Christian's Facebook page, or search for First Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska on YouTube.

www.fcclincoln.org/youtube

Call to Worship

Feel free to follow along with our Call to Worship from today's live-streamed worship service.

One: Whether we are strangers or old friends, God is joining us together in this place.

Many: God's steadfast love is our foundation; God's faithfulness is with us forever.

One: Whether we are "natives" or immigrants, God is building us together spiritually.

Many: God's steadfast love is our foundation; God's faithfulness is with us forever.

One: Whatever walls we try to build between us, in Christ, God tears them down to build a household for all God's people.

Many: God's steadfast love is our foundation; God's faithfulness is with us forever.

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Even if you are worshiping from home, please continue your regular giving to the church in addition to your faith giving. The FCC office is accepting checks at 430 S. 16th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. We can also mail you a debit authorization form to do automatic withdrawals. Finally, there is a "GIVE" button on the top right-hand side of the fcclincoln.org website to make an online donation via PayPal.
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Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of
the LORD
my whole life long.

Matthew 18:12-14

¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

Reflection

Meditation for 8th Sunday after Pentecost

“The Trouble with Tribbles” by Wayne Duncan

The Tribbles have troubles. Troubles from all sides. The trouble with Tribbles wasn't that they were different, but rather that they were misunderstood and disregarded. But still the Tribbles pressed on and enjoyed being Tribbles.

This is a good example for us as humans. Humans have a history and a purpose. We humans, like the Tribbles, forge on regardless of our circumstances. We enjoy being created as humans.

There have been times when we all have felt slighted and marginalized, maybe even misunderstood or taken for granted. Maybe we have even felt forgotten. But, we can take heart, for God is seeking us! In the Gospel reading for today, we see God seeking the one who has gone astray. We may rest in the hope, that even if we have gone off the path, God is seeking us. In our Psalm, we experience the shepherd providing, leading, and comforting. “With goodness and mercy following us all of our days, we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

A 14th century writer named John Ruusbroec challenges us to “see” people in the way that Jesus invites us to do. Not to “see” with your physical

eyes, but to “see” with your spiritual eyes. Using the powers of memory, understanding, and the will as sources of spiritual life, we can gain “sight” into people's lives and the world around us. To “see” someone without physical eyes, we open ourselves up to a much more meaningful experience of sharing and getting to know someone, with “No Eyes.”

“Seeing” others through our spiritual eyes prevents them from feeling forgotten, slighted, or marginalized. It can be our way of seeking after them just as God seeks after us. After all, the Tribbles don't even have eyes! And yet they still give love. The Tribbles don't see and still accept others. May we love others even when they don't look like us. May we accept others even when they don't do things the way we do. May we seek after them as our family in God.

We serve a loving God and our God loves all. May we always respond, reset, and recapture all the love God has to offer us. May we seek to see each other with “No Eyes.”

AMEN

Prayers & Praises

July 18, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Georgann Jordan, temporarily in Tabitha Rehab
- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Jessica Vocasek
- Nancy & Leo Jelinek
- Vic Burgess
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*
- Tricia Gangwish, *prayers for fighting breast cancer, aunt of Lindsay Swanson*
- Phyllis Jones, *hospitalized with COVID, cousin of Dick Pickel*
- Mark Carpenter, *with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Roger Christianson, *with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*
- Kristen, *sister of Leigh Lestina*
- Gene Gangwish, *prayers for healing in the ICU, father of Lindsay Swanson*
- David Sovey, *prayers for successful surgery, grandson of Harold and Donna Baker*
- Brother and Grandfather of Tony Flack, *prayers for healing from respiratory illness and cancer, from Tony Flack*
- Our deepest sympathy to Dick & Roxie Pickel *upon the passing of their son Rick*
- John and Joyce, *for safety from wildfires, brother and sister-in-law of Jim Christ*
- Lester, *for safety from hurricanes, cousin of Jim Christ*
- Greg Flack, *prayers to adjust to his new home with friends, from Tony Flack*

Friends:

- Karen, *during cancer treatments, co-worker of Rhonda Ball*
- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *diagnosed with glioblastoma, prayers for healing, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*
- Tomi, *healing prayers for cancer diagnosis, friend of Sara Lugn*
- Judy Nord, *with bile duct cancer, friend of Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Jim Bottolfson, *for stage 3 lung cancer, friend of the Vocaseks*
- Carson Mousel, *13-year-old grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Jamin and Hailey, *for the safe delivery of their baby girl, from Tony Flack*
- Cheryl Hanson, *prayers for medical and mental healing*
- Pat Haeft, *prayers for the end of his cancer journey, brother of Kathy Farahbod, friends of Pastor Karen*
- Rebecca Reynolds, *prayers for hospitalization for kidney failure*
- Tyson and Zeke Kohl, *prayers for the loss of their mother, from Tony Flack*

Our Timothy's:

- Bruce Frogge *at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, *Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE*

In the Nebraska Region:

- North Platte First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Emmanuela Loccident serving in Morocco

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at www.globalministries.org



Song of the Week

Kum ba Yah

Text & Music: African American spiritual

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba ya!

Someone's crying Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's singing Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

